

# Flying Lead Changes

## the CENTAURS 4-H CLUB newsletter

www centaurs4hclub.org "RIDE WITH PRIDE" COUNTRY CARE CODE: Centaurs



**"As police officers say, no one ever asks to pet a squad car." – From USA Today article about the city of Philadelphia's decision to bring back mounted patrols**

### June 2011

*Our next Club meeting: Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Howard County Fairgrounds Horse Ring.*

*Don't forget to bring:*

- ✓ *Hard toed shoes*
- ✓ *A cot or sleeping bag*
- ✓ *Toiletries*
- ✓ *Snack items*
- ✓ *Your mini, if you have one*
- ✓ *Bedding, hay and water for your mini.*

#### **This Month's Highlights:**

- *Mini Horse Show and Sleep Over*
- *Schooley Mill Horse Show*
- *4-H Horse Jamboree*
- *4-H Horse Judging Competition*

### **THE MANE EVENT**



#### **Our June Club Meeting: Centaurs 4-H Club Mini Horse Show and Sleepover-**

Our next Club meeting will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at the Horse Show Ring at the Howard County Fairgrounds. We will be having a Mini Horse Show and a special **surprise** – a Sleepover with our minis!

The Centaurs 4-H Club will first holding their annual Mini Horse Show at 6:00.

The Registration Booth will open at 5:00. The show will be held at the horse rings located at the Howard County Fairgrounds. We have plenty of minis in the Club to go around, so

even if you do not have a mini you are welcome to join in the fun. Don't be afraid to compete. Our minis are quiet and easy to handle. They are basically like big friendly dogs! All of the classes are in hand – so you will not be mounted during any of the classes. We will also be providing pizza for all participants.



#### **Page 1**

Centaurs 4-H Club Leaders: Marcie Barnard 410-461-3985 Barb Dashiell 301-262-4549

Sue Hart 301-776-8134 Beckie Peregoy 410-635-3281

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Please e-mail Marcie Barnard at [marcie.barnard@ngc.com](mailto:marcie.barnard@ngc.com) as soon as possible so we can get a head count for the pizza. The cost to participate in the show and the sleepover is \$15.00 per 4-Her. This will help cover the costs of the pizza, ribbons, snacks, and craft items during the sleepover.

The schedule of classes and more information will be mailed out in the next few days. Also, a parent or responsible adult **must** sleep over with your participating 4-Her. We plan on sleeping at the Fairgrounds. You will just need to bring a sleeping bag or a cot, a change of clothes, snacks, and toiletries.

So don't be shy – come to our Mini Horse Show and join in the festivities! We guarantee that you will have a good time. We are looking forward to this special event and hope that everyone attends.

**Schooley Mill Horse Show** – The June Schooley Mill Horse Show is set for Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup> with a rain date on June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Howard County Fairgrounds. We hope that many of the Centaurs are able to attend.

The Schooley Mill Horse Show Series website is:  
[http://centaurs4hclub.org/Schooley\\_Mill/Schooley\\_Mill.html](http://centaurs4hclub.org/Schooley_Mill/Schooley_Mill.html)

All important horse show information can be found at this site.

*The Show Committee is again asking the Centaurs to help in setting up the jumps for each show. The Schooley Mill Horse Show Series pays for all of the trophies that are given out at the Howard County*

*Fair 4-H Horse and Pony Show, which many of the Centaurs participate. By helping to set up the jumps, the Centaurs can play a vital role in raising monies needed for the 4-H Horse and Pony Show.*

We need dads or moms or come out and help set up the jumps on the day prior to the show. Please help this effort – the more people that help the faster it will get done.

E-mail Marcie so she can put your name down. The Jump Team usually meets for about one hour the day before. *Special thanks to Dennis Barnard and Kathy Martin for helping at the May show.*

**4-H Horse Jamboree** – Hope everyone that has signed up for the 2011 4-H Horse Jamboree and Horse Communications Contest. This year's event will be held July 7 - 9, 2011 at Patuxent River 4-H Center, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Youth and Adult Participants should plan to arrive at 10:30 am on Thursday, July 7th. The festivities will come to a close after the awards ceremony scheduled for 12:30 pm on Saturday, July 9th.

What's happening at this great event?

- Horsemanship Contest
- Horse Crafts
- State Horse Communications Contest
- Recreation
- Horse Presentations
- Workshops
- Music
- Water Games
- FUN!!!!

**Page 2**

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### **Details, Details, Details!**

This overnight program is designed to give youth opportunities to demonstrate their existing horse knowledge as well as to learn new ideas and skills while having fun. The program is open to all Maryland 4-H Members, ages 8-18 as of January 1, 2011. Participants will be staying overnight in cabins or tents at the center. The cabins have individual beds, but please bring along a twin sheet, sleeping bag, and pillows. Water games are planned so bring a towel and a swim suit.

### **Thursday, July 7, 2011**

10:30 am – Arrival, Registration, Check into Cabins  
12:00 pm Lunch  
12:45 pm Orientation & Get Acquainted Activities and Chaperone Responsibilities Meeting  
1:00 pm Workshops #1  
2:00 pm Workshops #2  
3:00 pm Horsemanship Contest (Alternating groups of Seniors, Intermediates, Juniors)  
3:00 pm Craft (Rotating with horsemanship contest participants)  
4:30 pm Contest Review  
5:00 pm Dinner  
6:00 pm Dirty Pony Contest  
7:30 pm Crafts / Service Project  
8:30pm Fun Evening Activities  
10:00 pm Lights Out

### **Friday, July 8, 2011**

8:00 am Breakfast  
8:45 am Flag Raising/Pledges/  
Camp Clean Up  
9:30 am Workshops #4  
10:30 am Workshops #5  
11:30 am Crafts  
12:30 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Communications Contest (1:30pm – 4 pm) Senior, Intermediate, Junior  
4:00 pm Water Games  
5:30 pm Dinner  
6:30 pm Demo  
8:00 pm DJ Dance  
10:30 pm Lights Out

### **Saturday, July 9, 2011**

8:00 am Breakfast  
12:30 pm Lunch  
1:00 pm Awards Ceremony

Please visit

<http://www.4horse.umd.edu/activities/jamboree.html> for more details.

### **Maryland State 4-H Horse Judging and Hippology Competition** - On

Saturday **June 18<sup>th</sup>**, Howard County 4-Hers will be attending the Maryland State 4-H Horse Judging competition at Queen Anne's County Horse Park- 100 Dulin Clark Rd., Centreville, MD 21617. At this competition, over 120 4-Hers from around the state will be participating in the State Judging and Hippology competition.

### **Tentative Schedule:**

8:00am - Registration  
8:30am - Orientation  
9:00am - Examination Phase of Hippology Contest  
10:00am - Horse Judging Contest/Judging Phase of Hippology-Conformation  
11:30am - Horse Judging Contest/Judging Phase of Hippology-Performance  
12:45pm - Lunch  
1:15pm - Horse Judging Contest - Reasons, Hippology - Station Phase (after

### **Page 3**

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participants give reasons)  
5:00pm - Awards Ceremony

Good luck to everyone who is participating in this event. You have worked hard learning rules of conformation, judging standards, and Hippology. We are so very proud of you.

**4-H Horse and Pony Cards Must Be Filled Out** - 4-H Horse and Pony Cards were handed out at the May meeting for updates. All Horse and Pony Cards **must** be turned into the 4-H Office by June 1<sup>st</sup>. *Also, if you are leasing a horse for your project horse, you must have a completed Horse and Pony Project Card and a 4-H Leasing Contract* and have it turned into the 4-H Office by June 1<sup>st</sup>. *You will not be able to show unregistered project horses and ponies at the Howard County Fair 4-H Horse and Pony Show in August.* So do not delay, make sure your Horse and Pony cards have been turned into the 4-H Office by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact Sue Hart at 301-776-8134 if you have any questions.

**Getting Ready for the Howard County Fair** - Fair books and passes will be handed out at the June Club meeting. If you cannot make this meeting, it is very important that you contact Sue Hart or Marcie Barnard so you can get your Fair book, passes, and exhibitor numbers. Please note: State Fair Books and entry forms will only be



available online from the Howard County 4-H website at [www.howard4-h.org](http://www.howard4-h.org) after June 1<sup>st</sup>.

4-H Fair entries for all project entries except the 4-H Horse and Pony Show will be performed online at the Howard County 4-H website as in the past. Hard copy entries will be required for the Horse and Pony Show. Fair entries for all project areas, including the 4-H Horse and Pony Show must be completed by July 1st.

Remember: You must submit a photocopy of your current Coggins, along with your Horse and Pony entry. In addition, you must pass the Level 1 and 2 Knowledge and Riding Tests prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> in order to show at the Fair. There will be no exceptions.

All other Howard County Fair entries **must be entered online by July 1<sup>st</sup>** using the Howard County 4-H website. Look for news concerning Howard County Fair registration in the June Cloverleaf.

If you are unsure of what classes and/or divisions you should participate at the Horse and Pony show, contact Marcie or Sue. They will gladly answer any questions you may have.

**Club Books Due** - Reminder: The following Club books are due to the 4-H Office by July 30<sup>th</sup> for judging at the Howard County Fair:

**BOOKS ENTERED AT FAIR:**

- Treasurer's Book for the entire previous year (2010) (**Kathleen Periera**)
- Program Planning Book for the previous year (2010) (**Janina**)

- Vickers**). (Updated from the one turned in at the beginning of the previous year in February)
- Corresponding Secretary Book for the entire previous year (2010) **(We do not have one)**
  - Recording Secretary Book for the entire previous year (2010). **(Meredith Pecukonis)**
  - Historian Book for the entire previous year. **(We do not have one)**

**Do not wait until the last minute to get your book ready!**

**Quality Assurance** - All Centaurs 4-H Club members who are planning to show their horse at either the Howard County Fair or the Maryland State Fair must complete the animal husbandry and quality assurance training. The online Quality Assurance program is now available through July 31st. Use the link provided below. You must complete the online training prior to exhibiting your project animals in Maryland County 4-H and State 4-H shows. Please read the following information very carefully:

[www.maryland4h.org/AHQA](http://www.maryland4h.org/AHQA)

There is no password for Howard County. On the opening page scroll down to the bottom and click on begin. When you start that process, you will come to a page where it asks you to register giving your name, county and birth date. Once you click register it will give you a pass code. **WRITE THIS CODE DOWN**, you will need it each time you log in. If you forget your password or lose it, you will have to register again and start all over.

If you have any questions about this program, contact Marcie Barnard or the 4-H Office.

**Animal Lease Agreements** - Maryland 4-H offers an Animal Leasing Program. This program provides the opportunity for youth who may not be able to have animals lease animals and exhibit them at 4-H shows. The program does not find animals for the 4-H'er to lease so those interested must make arrangements with the owners.

Below are a few things to keep in mind: If you own an animal in a project area, then you cannot lease in the same project area. (For example, if you own a steer you cannot lease a beef heifer.) If you lease, you must be enrolled in the project area by May 1st. Leases are due to the county office on June 1st.

Lease agreements are available at [www.howard4-h.org](http://www.howard4-h.org). If you have any questions, contact Sheryl Bennett at 410-313-1912 or [sherylb@umd.edu](mailto:sherylb@umd.edu).

**Six Pillars of Character** - 4-H is so well respected through out our society because of the basic principles 4-H'ers are asked to represent. The Six Pillars of Character are wonderful, personal attributes to include in your 4-H experience and in your every day life.

### **TRUSTWORTHINESS**

Be worthy of trust. Honesty and integrity in moments of your life, even when it can be difficult, will show to other and yourself how dependable you are!

## RESPECT

Always remember to show respect, courtesy, and consideration to everyone, including yourself! Show respect for all living things and property too!

## RESPONSIBILITY

Be responsible, accountable and conduct yourself in a manner where you and others will be proud!

## FAIRNESS

Remember to always be fair and have an open mind. Follow rules and always look out for the common good!

## CARING

Be kind and compassionate. Treat others as you would like to be treated and show appreciation for efforts of others!

## CITIZENSHIP

Be a contributing and law-abiding citizen. Respect your community and your world and strive to make it better for all!

**Seat Position** By AQHA Professional Horseman Shane George with Christine Hamilton for *The American Quarter Horse Journal*

*Balance over your horse's center of gravity in the two-point position.*



positioned or swinging lower leg, and rounded shoulders and back.

In a half seat, you get off your seat, out of the saddle and find a balance that is more forward over the horse's center of gravity. The red shaded areas in this photo show common problems riders have with the half seat: hands and arms too far back, poorly

There are two basic seats for a hunter rider: full seat and half seat. For the hunters and jumpers, it's important to have the ability to use both.

In a "full seat," you have contact with your seat in the saddle. You sit on the horse's back, riding each stride in a collected manner. It's the seat you use in rail work.

In a "half seat," you get up off your seat, out of the saddle and find a balance that's a little more forward. It allows you to get your balance up and over your lower leg and over the horse's center of gravity in his shoulder and wither. It's a dynamic position, giving the rider more flexibility in how he moves with the horse.

How much your seat is out of the saddle depends on what you're doing at the moment. If you're in between jumps in a course, you might ride with your seat up but closer to the saddle, almost hovering over it. But if you're going over a jump, your seat will be clearly up out of the

Trainers often use different term to describe variations in half seat. You often hear "two-point" used to mean a half seat or classic jumping position. However, two-point position and half-seat mean the same thing.

The lower leg is important for a good half seat because that's your foundation as you hold your balance up over the horse's balance.

In a hunter class, you want the horse to canter to a jump smoothly. A rider being a little off the horse's back in a half seat absorbs a lot of the concussion and shock from the stride of the canter in the rider's

## Page 6

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legs and heels. If you tried to sit and ride every stride in the saddle to the jump, that would create a lot of resistance.

What you look for in hunters is smoothness, good jumping style and an overall picture of making it look easy. The aerodynamic, balanced flexibility of a good half seat is the basis for achieving that.

### **Common Problems**

#### **Gripping with the knee:**

A common problem in developing a good two-point in Quarter Horse riders is that they rely on pressure through their knee to find their balance, or they “pinch” with their knees. That’s their main contact point.

If the main contact and balance is through the knee, then you have a loose, swinging lower leg. You don’t have your leg against the horse’s side, so you’re not effective with your leg. You don’t have control, and it looks sloppy.

If you don’t have a secure lower leg, everything else won’t connect either. You’re rougher with your hands because you’ll use your hands to balance on the horse’s mouth, and that’s not the idea.

Your real foundation for balance and control is to have your lower leg against the horse’s side. Your support system should be below the knee. If you take your knee away from the saddle, automatically your strength and your balance will go lower into your leg. Your weight and balance will drop down into the lower calf, ankle and foot. That’s what holds you up.

#### **Elbows:**

People like to have their elbows back at their sides, but there’s no flexibility in your arm going over a jump with the elbow back at the body. If you’ll get that elbow out in front and keep your forearm soft, you’ll have a much smoother, nicer communication with your horse’s mouth.

#### **Poor reins:**

When you go into the half seat, you should smoothly collect your reins and shorten them. You want your control – the reins through the bit – out in front of you. That way, your guidance to the horse becomes more direct and smooth.

If riders get into half seat and leave their hands and the reins back at the withers, then they lean out over their hands, and they can’t steer.

Often good riders can balance and get into the half seat without shortening their reins, but their arms are still out in front of the body.

It’s OK to have a loop in the reins, but only if you have a perfectly broke and soft horse. It’s a more inexperienced hand that has a loop in the reins at the neck – an experienced hand is going to have light contact there.

#### **Stirrups too long:**

If your stirrups are too long, you’ll have difficulty properly getting your seat out of the saddle.

#### **No rhythm:**

Another problem I often see in the beginner rider’s half seat is not finding the rhythm of the canter.

### **Page 7**

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You just have to practice that. It's like anything you do with horses: the more you do it, the more familiar you are with it and the more you can do. At some point, it'll hit you.

### **Mark Your Calendars!**

June 5<sup>th</sup> - MWA Horse Show

June 12<sup>th</sup> - Schooley Mill Horse Show

June 18<sup>th</sup> - 4-H Horse Judging and Hippology Contest

June 18<sup>th</sup> - Centaurs 4-H Club Mini Show and Sleepover

June 26 - 4-H Camp

July 7<sup>th</sup> - 4-H Horse Jamboree

July 16<sup>th</sup> - Schooley Mill Horse Show

July 17<sup>th</sup> - MWA Horse Show



### **Page 8**

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